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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO LICENSING.

**BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:**

1           SECTION 1. The legislature finds that under existing law,  
2 audiologists must be licensed as an audiologist under chapter  
3 468E, Hawaii Revised Statutes, and as a hearing aid dealer and  
4 fitter, pursuant to chapter 451A, Hawaii Revised Statutes.

5           However, the legislature notes that an applicant for an  
6 audiologist license must meet education, examination, and  
7 training requirements that far surpass the licensing  
8 requirements for a hearing aid dealer and fitter. The  
9 legislature further finds that requiring audiologists to hold  
10 dual licensure as an audiologist and a hearing aid dealer and  
11 fitter is redundant and burdensome, as audiologist licensing  
12 requirements are more stringent than hearing aid dealer and  
13 fitter licensing requirements.

14           Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to:

15           (1) Clarify that the licensing requirements for hearing  
16 aid dealers and fitters shall not apply to  
17 audiologists licensed pursuant to chapter 468E, Hawaii  
18 Revised Statutes; and



1 (2) Clarify that to be eligible for licensure as an  
2 audiologist, a person shall not be required to also be  
3 licensed as a hearing aid dealer and fitter under  
4 chapter 451A, Hawaii Revised Statutes.

5 SECTION 2. Section 451A-2, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
6 amended to read as follows:

7 **"§451A-2 License required.** [~~It~~] (a) Except as otherwise  
8 provided in this chapter, it shall be unlawful for any person  
9 not licensed under this chapter to engage in the sale or  
10 practice of dealing and fitting of hearing aids or to use any  
11 sign, card, or device to indicate that the person is licensed.

12 (b) Any person wishing to obtain a license or a license by  
13 endorsement shall apply on a form prescribed by the director and  
14 shall furnish to the director:

15 (1) Satisfactory proof that the person is a high school  
16 graduate; and

17 (2) Satisfactory proof that the person has fulfilled all  
18 of the requirements for a license.

19 (c) An applicant shall be required to pass a licensing  
20 examination."



1 SECTION 3. Section 451A-18, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
2 amended to read as follows:

3 "§451A-18 Persons and practices not affected. This  
4 chapter is not intended to:

- 5 (1) Prohibit any person from engaging in the practice of  
6 measuring human hearing for the purpose of selection  
7 of hearing aids; provided that the person or the  
8 organization employing the person does not sell  
9 hearing aids or accessories;
- 10 (2) Prohibit a person in maintaining an established  
11 business address from engaging in the business of  
12 selling or offering for sale hearing aids at retail  
13 without a license; provided that it employs persons  
14 licensed under this chapter responsible for the  
15 fitting and direct sale of such products; [~~and~~]
- 16 (3) Apply to a person who is a physician licensed to  
17 practice in Hawaii [~~-~~]; or
- 18 (4) Apply to a person who is licensed as an audiologist  
19 pursuant to chapter 468E."

20 SECTION 4. Section 468E-5, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
21 amended to read as follows:



1           "§468E-5 Eligibility for licensure. (a) To be eligible  
2 for licensure by the board as a speech pathologist or  
3 audiologist, a person shall:

4           (1) Possess at least a master's degree or its equivalent  
5 in the area of speech pathology or audiology, as the  
6 case may be, from an educational institution  
7 recognized by the board;

8           (2) Submit to the board evidence of eligibility for  
9 meeting the requirements of the American Speech-  
10 Language-Hearing Association for the certificate of  
11 clinical competence in speech pathology or audiology,  
12 or both; and

13           (3) Pass a written examination approved by the board.

14           (b) To be eligible for licensure by the board as an  
15 audiologist, a person shall not be required to also be licensed  
16 as a hearing aid dealer and fitter under chapter 451A."

17           SECTION 5. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed  
18 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

19           SECTION 6. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.



**Report Title:**

Licensing; Audiologists; Hearing Aid Dealers and Fitters

**Description:**

Clarifies that the licensing requirements for hearing aid dealers and fitters shall not apply to audiologists licensed pursuant to chapter 468E, Hawaii Revised Statutes. Clarifies that to be eligible for licensure as an audiologist, a person shall not be required to also be licensed as a hearing aid dealer and fitter. (CD1)

*The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.*

